

MBC of Iowa – Iowa Plan Medicaid Children & Adolescents 1999

Monthly Enrollment:

Average Monthly Enrollment	180,000
Percent Children (<18)	59%
Percent Adults (18+)	41%

Yearly Enrollment:

Total	257,519*
Children	154,116
Adults	106,613

*Children who turned 18 during the year will also be counted in the adult category.

Medicaid Yearly Penetration:

All enrollees	36,930 (14%)
Children	19,969 (13%)
Adults	19,545 (18%)

Child Welfare Involvement:

Percent of Child Enrollees with a child welfare worker	12%
Percent of Child Enrollees without child welfare	88%

Of the 19,969 children who received at least one mental health service during 1999, 34% (6,470) also received services through the child welfare system.

Keep Kids Safe Policy (Administrative Authorizations):

MBC of Iowa is required to ensure that no Iowa Plan member who has been receiving Iowa Plan-funded services in a 24-hour treatment setting is discharged from that setting until a discharge plan has been developed which provides appropriate follow-up care and treatment which is available and accessible to that enrollee.

MBC of Iowa is required to authorize on an administrative basis up to 14 calendar days of additional funding to an enrollee under the age of 18 if a safe and appropriate living arrangement is not available because:

- a) a court order is in effect which must be modified to allow the placement of the child into that living arrangement
- b) a court order is required to allow placement of the child into the appropriate living arrangement

- c) a bed is not available in the level of care which has been determined as clinically appropriate for the child
- d) additional services and supports must be arranged to assist the natural family, foster family, or other living arrangement become ready to assist the enrollee after the enrollee's return to that environment

(From the MBC of Iowa contract with DHS and DPH)

On a daily basis, **35-40 children/adolescents** are in a 24-hour setting on an administrative authorization. Children that are administratively authorized are awaiting placement in a PMIC, a foster family home, a group care setting, Woodward or Glenwood, or another type of facility for developmentally disabled. The typical mental health diagnosis for the hospital admission is conduct disorder, oppositional defiant, or intermittent explosive disorder – in other words they are aggressive enough that many of our providers are concerned that they can not control the behaviors.

One of the strategies to assist in discharge planning for Iowa Plan enrollees is through **Joint Treatment Planning (JTP)**. Joint Treatment Planning is a service to develop an individual treatment plan for children and adults who are involved in more than one system. Through JTP's MBC of Iowa staff cases with the client and their family, DHS staff, Juvenile Court Services staff, County staff, the active providers, and others involved in the treatment plan. This is to ensure continuity in the planning and outcomes with the client.

In 1999, we facilitated 415 joint treatment planning conferences. In addition, our staff has daily contacts with providers, DHS, JCS, county staff, clients and their families.

In July 2000, MBC of Iowa initiated a higher level of joint treatment planning for some of our most clinically complex children. These staffings also include administrators from DHS, MBC of Iowa's child psychiatrist and clinical director.

- . 17 children have been staffed through this process
- . On average, it takes 3 staffings to implement the plan
- 6. months is the average length of administrative stay for these 17 children
- . 8 of the children are awaiting placement at Woodward or Glenwood because of their level of mental retardation

What Families are Saying About HAWK-I

Following are excerpts from the comments section of the survey that is sent to families that have been in the program for one year:

"The plan has helped us very much, especially with medicine every month. There used to be times when my child would have to go without because we couldn't afford it. Also, his visits to mental health are so very expensive, he had to stop seeing his counselor before we got the insurance."

"It has been a great relief to not have to decide if my child needed to go to the doctor if we would be able to pay the bill or if we would have to wait until pay day to fill the prescription."

"I am so thankful to have this coverage for my child! I have had very positive conversations when Z have contacted the office regarding payment of services. My child would probably not have health insurance if it wasn't for HA WK-I. Thank you thank you thank you!"

"I think this program is the best thing needed for me as well as other families. The cost to insure my son at work is outrageous. I am very happy to have my son enrolled in the HA WK-I program. It's improved my health with the stressful decisions I would have to make if I were to pay for doctor's visits, etc. I hope the program is around for a long time to make people's life easier and children's health much better. Thank You!"

"This insurance has greatly reduced the unavailability and stress of getting my kids medical care when they need it. Thank you!"

"I feel this insurance plan was great. I felt good knowing my son was covered I appreciated the help. I now have family insurance for both of us but your plan was a life saver for me."

"I am very glad that there are people like all of you! I am a single parent and can't afford everything that life throws at me sometimes! I just want to say thanks to this program. Without you my little girl would not have insurance. Thanks again."

"I have no dislikes about the HAWK-I program. It is the best thing that has happened for our family. Thank you so very much!"

"It is a great relief to have this affordable insurance coverage for my child. I would like to see something in the future offered to adults also. "

"To me as a parent, this plan is the best for my daughter and I recommend HA WK-I to anybody I know that has kids. Thank you very much. I don't have to worry about insurance coverage any more for my child "

"I think the HAWK-I is wonderful. I tell people at work about it. Some have children that don't have insurance. I would sometimes take a copy of an application to give to them. But now I see the applications everywhere. I think you are doing a great job getting the information out there. It's been a great help to us. I want to thank the program. Thank you. My daughter has gotten her ear problem cared for. I wouldn't want to think of her being deaf with out HAWK-I. Keep up the great job. "

"This really is a wonderful plan! Being a single (divorced since 1992) parent who had the responsibility of having insurance on the girls, paying all medical/rug/dental and eye care for them is a tough thing to do! I wish I'd found out about the HA WK-I plan sooner!!"

"It has been a great relief to have HAWK-I. As a single parent of three with \$0 support currently from the X, all the help I can get is appreciated. "

"The dental benefits are great! I am so glad to be able to take him to a dentist that cares about children 's dental health. Thank you!"

"I don't have to worry about how I will pay for the prescriptions if given one. I'm assured that all her medicine will be taken care of I'm glad I don't have to pay a copayment for anything because I'm on a fixed income and Z may not have the money at certain times. And, If I have the money, it may not be enough to purchase one or more of the prescriptions. Thank you!"